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Rotary is hosting a free party in Haliburton on Friday, Dec. 8. More on page 2

Victory at Vimy

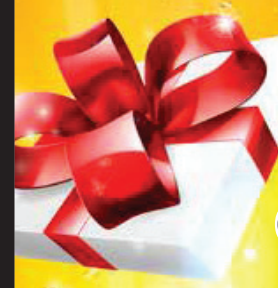
Author Ted Barris to talk about Canada's role at Vimy Ridge. See page 4

Best Present Ever

Local author releases Christmas book in time for the holidays. See page 10



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fun**

Lilyanne and William Curry pose for a photo for their mom, Christina Curry before the Ugly Sweater Run on Nov. 26 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum.



Rotary Club to host Community Christmas Party

NATE SMELLE

County Life Staff

The Rotary club of Haliburton will once again be holding its Community Christmas and Skating Party. The fifth annual Haliburton Rotary Community Christmas Party will take place at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre in Haliburton on Friday, Dec. 8 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. This year's event will feature public skating, music, hot cocoa, pizza and snacks, games and prizes. As long as there is enough snow on the ground, there will also be dogsled rides from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Rotarian Ted Brandon said that the event is intended to bring families and community members together to celebrate the holidays. Many Rotarians claim the annual Christmas party is their favourite night of the year, he said.

"We get a massive crowd and there is just a lot of joy in the room," said Brandon.

"Obviously, Santa's visit is the highlight of the night for many in attendance."

Brandon encourages people to bring their camera, so they can have their picture taken with the “big man in red” between 7 p.m and 8 p.m. He said the Haliburton Rotary Community Christmas Party is only one of many community service projects Rotary

undertakes each year. A few of the club's recent contributions to the community include the annual Music in the Park concert series; construction of a new bandshell in Head Lake Park, and the new timber framed entrance to A.J. LaRue Community Centre; and a \$25,000 contribution to Haliburton Skateboard park. According to Brandon, the Rotary Club covers the entire cost of the Christmas party, without seeking donations or sponsorships for the event from the public. He said the main reason the Rotary Club hosts the event is to ensure that every young person in Haliburton has the opportunity to enjoy a Christmas celebration.

"We felt it was important to make the event totally free so there would be no barrier to anyone attending," he said.

"The event is paid for through our fundraising. Our major fundraisers are the Haliburton Rotary Car Draw in August, where we raffle off a Chevrolet Camaro, our Lobsterfest in June and other smaller barbecue fundraisers."

The rink will be open to the public for skating from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. and there will be live music by Jeff Moulton between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Brandon said partygoers will also have a chance to test their hockey skills during the Shoot to Win contest being held from 6:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information on the Haliburton Rotary Club's Community Christmas Party visit the Club online at their Facebook page.

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... and of course, butter, cream, eggs and milk



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CountyLife

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Canadian Tire *	Minden Valumart *	The Source*
Car Quest *	Paulmacs*	Todd's Independent *
Haliburton Foodland*	Pet Valu	TSC*
Home Hardware*	Pharmasave*	V&S Stedmans Haliburton*
Kinmount Foodtown*	Rexall Haliburton*	Wilberforce Foodland*
Minden Foodland*	Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton*	

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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*Subject to availability, peak travel time, and black outs.



Sinclair Russell had the best seat in the house for the Santa Claus Parade.



The Grinch lends a hand, pushing Santa's float down Bobcaygeon Road at the Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Nov. 25 in Minden. Although dark skies loomed, the rain and snow held off and the crowds were able to see plenty of festive floats, setting the mood for the season. /JENN WATT Staff

Mindenites welcome the holidays
Local MP Jamie Schmale was out and about at several Highlands events on the weekend of Nov. 24 and 25 including both Santa Claus parades and the Highlands Christmas Shindig.



A life-size gingerbread man and elf caught the attention of many parade goers.

A little advance notice....

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The reasons for victory at Vimy

CHAD INGRAM

County Life Staff

It was throwing the traditional war script out the proverbial window that allowed Canadian troops their time-honoured victory at Vimy Ridge during the First World War, says journalist and historian Ted Barris.

Barris will be conducting a talk based on his latest book, *Victory at Vimy: Canada Comes of Age, April 9 – 12, 1917*, as part of the Yours Outdoors Telling Our Stories Speakers Series next month. While the Battle of Vimy Ridge has been covered frequently and thoroughly, Barris notes, it has often been from the perspective of those with power, with reputations to protect. "It's often been covered by officers, or generals, or people who were decision-makers," says Barris, a professor of journalism at Toronto's Centennial College. "The people I sourced in my research had nothing at stake." His work draws on journals and writings of artillery men, ambulance drivers and everyday soldiers whose experience of war unfolded mostly in the few feet around them.

Barris's presentation will reconstruct the four-day battle and also explore some of the not-so-common knowledge about just what happened during the famous battle against the Germans in northern France. Canadian military commanders did not use the traditional training manual of the time, the one that kept a strict, hierarchical hold on information. Traditionally, commanding officers knew the strategy, knew the objective, but that was kept

from members of the infantry, for security reasons. Spies might find out about it. "So, if the officer was wounded or killed, the men running across the field behind him had absolutely no idea what the objective was," Barris says. What the Canadian military commanders did at Vimy Ridge was decentralize this information, so that instead of the strategy being held secret in the minds of a few, objectives were shared with personnel from gunmen to trench-diggers. "In other words, letting everybody know what the objective was," Barris says.

Not only were objectives shared, but soldiers were trained for various roles. As Barris explains, Canadian troops were divided into 50-man units, including grenadelaunchers, stretcher carriers, pioneers – soldiers who performed engineering and construction-type work – and so on. "Everybody learned everybody else's job," says Barris. That way, if a soldier was injured or killed, his comrades could step into the role, hopefully still able to carry out their task. Not only that, but Canadian strategists disguised the operation. While military uniforms vary with rank, "they had all the officers dress as corporals," Barris says. "In other words, everybody looked the same. None of the leaders would be recognized immediately." So, when Canadian soldiers came at them in a creeping barrage, German soldiers were unable to identify which ones were issuing the commands.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge is often regarded as a landmark in the creation of the Canadian identity. In a still very colonial climate, Canada entered the war immediately upon the involve-

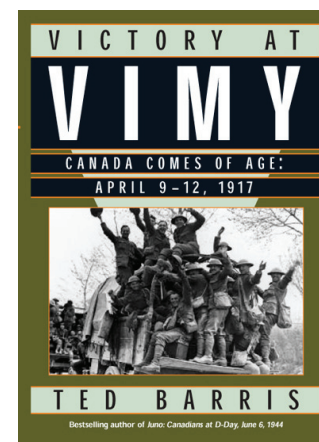
ment of Great Britain and it has been a dominant narrative in the century since that the victory at Vimy cemented a sense of national identity for Canadians. In recent years, some academics have challenged that notion, suggesting that the importance of Vimy to Canadian identity has been overhyped. However, Barris believes the battle was indeed an important moment in the country's development. "If you look carefully at the literature, it's there," he says.

Barris refers to the writings of Harold Innis, who during the First World War had just graduated from McMaster University, and would later go on to become an economist and professor at the University of Toronto. While Innis may have been the more intellectual among his more salt-of-the-earth battery mates, rehearsing the battle in their minds and telling stories of their homes brought the men together. They were no longer fighting for king and country, for the old empire, but fighting for Canada. "Suddenly, they realized they had more in common than just the emblem on their shoulder," Barris says.

Barris also references the story of Grace MacPherson, the first woman in Vancouver to have a driver's licence and own her car, and who also became an ambulance driver for the Canadian military in Vimy. After first being denied as an ambulance driver by the Red Cross offices in both Canada and Britain, MacPherson made her way to England where she got a job looking after payroll for Canadians stationed at barracks in London. Eventually, MacPherson

would indeed end up driving an ambulance, transporting injured soldiers. While she was proud of her accomplishments during the war, "she was most proud of the Canadian badge on her shoulder," Barris says, adding that stories such as those from MacPherson and Innis speak volumes about the sense of Canadian pride that permeated the battlefield at Vimy Ridge. Barris has written 18 books and is currently working on numbers 19 through 21. Many of them deal with Canadian military history and he has interviewed more than 6,000 veterans throughout his career. "You're always looking for a story that's never been told," he said. "And that's what you find in the stories of those veterans." Barris adds they're stories that need to be told.

Barris's Victory at Vimy talk will take place at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Admission is \$10 per person. For more information, call 705-754-3436 or 705-457-7557.



Historian Ted Barris is scheduled to talk about his book on Dec. 13 in Haliburton.

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Friday, Dec. 15th

Come Wander - Downtown Haliburton!

Juno winner joining the Full Count Blues Band for Minden gig

ON THE EVENING of Saturday, Dec. 16, sax legend and Juno winner Pat Carey will be joining Howard Ross and the Full Count Blues Band for an evening of rock-in' blues at the Dominion Hotel in Minden.

Carey has an extraordinary music pedigree. Originally from The Pas, Man., he was playing saxophone by the age of 13 and later earned a degree in music from the University of Manitoba. Those university years included performances with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, where he shared the stage with many visiting jazz greats.

In 1979, Carey partnered with Tom Jestadt, a great Canadian drummer, to form the Pat Carey/Tom Jestadt Jazz Quartet. Carey then joined Rocki Rolletti, and in 1982 the group went on to win the Trans Canada Rock Contest. That award secured them a recording session with famed producer Bob Ezrin. In 1984 Carey moved to Toronto, where he has continued as a greatly respected working musician.

In 1985 Carey joined the Downchild Blues Band and has continued to play and record with them ever since, while also playing with other bands. From 1986 until 1989 he was a member of the Labatt Double Blues Band and also the leader of his own band, the Jazz Navigators.

Carey has released numerous albums with Downchild and the Jazz Navigators and he is a multiple Maple Blues award winner as horn player of the year, and a multiple Juno award winner too. He's played with such jazz luminaries as Lionel Hampton, Sarah Vaughan, Mel Torme and Tony Bennett. Carey has also played with blues guitar legend Buddy Guy, Little Anthony, The Drifters, Ron Hynes, Dan Aykroyd, Lesley Gore, and Colin James.

Carey continues to perform with numerous bands in southern Ontario, including Rita Chiarelli, Raoul and The Big Time, Fathead, the New Millennium Orchestra, the Hogtown All Stars and the Full Count Blues Band.

Carey's partnering with Howard Ross, the Full Count Blues Band guitarist, gives the group a formidable duo to go along with stalwart rhythm section vets Nick Succi on bass and Frank Woodcock on drums. Ross came to music in a strange way. He first became interested as a young lad in the 1960s when he hooked up his grandfather's old Marconi short-wave radio to an external antenna. He pulled in stations from the southern U.S. and England that played blues music. Howard was soon hooked on the blues.

Those early musical experiences ultimately led to him playing the guitar and writing his own songs. They also taught him about musicians steeped in the blues, and the influence they had on British bands like the Rolling Stones. The Stones led him to other music like the New Orleans boogie piano of Professor

Longhair, and the soul music of performers such as James Brown.

That willingness to learn from other styles is why Howard Ross and the Full Count Blues Band are so entertaining. The band has an eclectic repertoire, and Dominion patrons can expect to hear some blues, funk, R&B, rock, and soul, as well as some originals. Ross has a soulful, mature voice, and with his unique guitar stylings, a great rhythm section behind him, and Pat Carey wowing the crowd with his sax wizardry, the ingredients are in place for a memorable evening.

Shawn Chamberlin, proprietor of the Dominion says that there will be lots of room to dance; so the gig on Dec. 16, with the Full Count Blues Band promises to be the fun event of the Christmas season. The music starts at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and are available online at DominionHotelPub.ca or by pickup at the hotel, 113 Main Street (Bobcaygeon Rd), in Minden.



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Editorial



The Highland Grove Museum and the Bancroft North Hastings Heritage Museum combined to document a canoe making for a book. In 2018 the two museums are combining to prepare moose and deer hides for the Bancroft Algonquins which can be used for new cultural activities.

The past comes forward

JOHN JAMIESON

Special to *County Life*

In the past few months various newspaper articles and commercial radio and TV programs have mentioned the active involvement of federal and Ontario governments and Indigenous groups in land claims settlements.

Indigenous people have occupied the land in the Haliburton and Hastings County areas for at least 4,000 years.

With the advent of European settlers, their land has gradually been occupied by pioneers who continued to restrict land available for them and established laws that denied them ability to sustain their families.

Bonita Lawrence, author of *Fractured Homeland*, which details the Algonquin story, basically distills their fate: settlers' governments occupied Indigenous land, extracted wealth from the land and left natives in poverty.

In 1873 the federal government established only one reserve of 1,500 acres in Ontario, at Golden Lake, also called Pikwakanagan. Algonquins in the Ontario area of the Ottawa River drainage area were told to move there and become "Indians" under the Indian Act (1876), or if they refused, they became non-status Indians, with no entrenched rights. Many Algonquins said they didn't need a piece of paper from the government to tell them who they were.

As might be expected, many natives refused to leave their traditional land.

Townships were surveyed and established over Algonquin occupied land.

Gradually any land they managed to obtain was lost to taxes. Immersed in settlement communities their language slowly disappeared and they often lived outside the community. Too often many refused to recognize their heritage, "silent about their identity." Laws restricting hunting and fishing, traditional Algonquin activities became criminalized and "dispossession from the land became complete."

The connection to land that anchored them and provided a sense of identity was terminated. But the culture still remained outside the one reserve.

Focused land claims started in 1992, led by Pikwakanagan. This increased more activity in Algonquin culture in 10 Ontario communities. Stephen Hunter, Algonquin negotiating representative for the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Band, in the Bancroft area, is striving to show more visibility of Algonquin culture that always remained. Non-status Algonquins and status Algonquins will require a heavy investiture of energy to attain Algonquin nationhood.

This summer, 2017, a traditional Algonquin birch bark canoe making demonstration and the opening of the Eagle Nest Park were two major Algonquin activities. The Highland Grove Museum and the Bancroft North Hastings Heritage Museum combined to document the canoe making for a book. In 2018 the two museums are combining to prepare moose and deer hides for the Bancroft Algonquins, which can be used for new cultural activities. Perhaps a traditional animal hide teepee.

Museums can always be proactive in supporting community activity that remembers the past and presents new learning.

John Jamieson is president of the Highland Grove Heritage Society.

Top 10 horrible Christmas gifts

WHOEVER SAID Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year was either a shop keeper or someone who routinely adds too much rum to their eggnog. Don't get me wrong; I love Christmas and all the season represents. It's the gift giving I hate. And not because of the expense it incurs either. No, I worry about the psychological damage. Yes, I am a horrible gift giver.

Even so, I have learned a thing or two over the years. Here are 10 gifts you should never give.

1. Any book with For Dummies in the title.
2. Any first attempt. As in, "What is it? Oh, this is my first attempt at taxidermy."
3. An IOU for a "Squirrel dinner for two." Don't ask me why, but this just gets peo-

ple all emotional.

4. Couches. In my experience, most people are too particular about the camouflage pattern they are upholstered in.

5. Deodorant, especially if it is extra-strength. However well meaning, people just take it the wrong way.

6. A pet cat. They will almost always recognize that it was yours.

7. Essential Oils. WD40, 10W30, and gun oil are not every woman's cup of tea.

8. A broom.

9. A slingshot. Especially if it accompanies a broom.

10. An 8 X 10 photo of you and your best road kill to date. Some people just aren't the sentimental type.



STEVE GALEA
 Humour Columnist

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 comment or opinion
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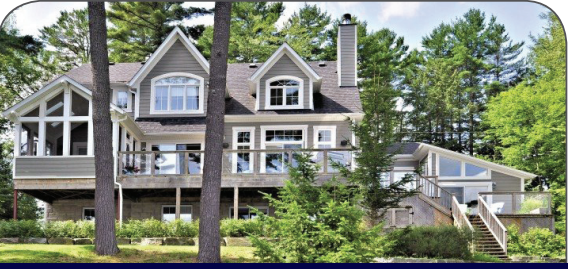
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Warm weather brings crowds to Haliburton Parade

Santa waved to all of the children in the audience during the parade in Haliburton on Friday night. The parade was the largest yet and had big crowds lining Highland Street. /JENN WATT Staff



The Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships represented with a truckload of Minions at the parade.



Dancers in last weekend's rendition of The Nutcracker were on the street during the parade to show off their costumes.



Ponies were a big attraction at the Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 24



Always a favourite, the Keweenaw brought the rhythm to the parade on Friday night.



Free photos with Santa!
Saturday Dec. 9th
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0%* PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 60+ \$4,000
MONTHS TOTAL VALUE
(INCLUDES \$1,000 GM CARD APPLICATION BONUS)

- FEATURES:
- ✓ AVAILABLE APPLE CARPLAY™¹ AND ANDROID AUTO™² CAPABILITY AND ONSTAR³ 4G LTE WITH BUILT-IN WI-FI[®] HOTSPOT (3GB/3 MONTH TRIAL)
 - ✓ NHTSA OVERALL VEHICLE 5-STAR SAFETY SCORE⁴
 - ✓ AVAILABLE CLASS-EXCLUSIVE AUTOMATIC LOCKING REAR DIFFERENTIAL



THE 2018 SILVERADO 1500 DOUBLE CAB WT BLACK OUT EDITION MODEL SHOWN

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\$195* @ 2.9% FOR 48 \$3,350
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(INCLUDES \$1,000 GM CARD APPLICATION BONUS)

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SILVERADO 1500 DOUBLE CAB CUSTOM EDITION 4X4 MODEL SHOWN

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MONTHS TOTAL VALUE

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COLORADO LT CREW CAB MODEL SHOWN

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GM Card Application Bonus credit value depends on model purchased: \$500 GM Card Bonus on new 2017 Sonic, Cruze, Malibu (excl L), Camaro, Volt, Trax, 2018 Equinox; \$750 GM Card Bonus on new 2017 Equinox, 2017 & 2018 Impala, Corvette, Colorado (excl 2SA), Traverse, City, Express; \$1000 GM Card Bonus on new 2017 & 2018 Tahoe, Suburban, Silverado LD & HD. As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Company (GM Canada) to verify eligibility. \$500 Holiday Bonus is applied against eligible 2017 & 2018 MY vehicles purchased during the program period. 2017 & 2018MY vehicles not eligible for this offer are: exclusions outlined under GM Card Bonuses above, Spark, Bolt EV. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GM Canada dealer for details. GM Canada reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. Void where prohibited. See dealer for details. (0/60+\$4,000 Total Value Finance Offer) Eligible 2017 Silverado Double Cab WT: Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles financed and from between December 1, 2017 to January 2, 2018. Financing provided, on approved credit, by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Representative finance example based on a new 2017 Silverado Double Cab WT. Suggested retail price is \$46,440 including \$1,700 freight and PDI, \$100 air conditioning charge (where applicable), \$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in required. \$46,440 financed at 0% nominal rate equals \$774 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0 for a total obligation of \$46,440. Taxes, PPSA, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by region and dealer) are extra. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time financing offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GM Canada may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. *Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. \$4,000 Total Value. Limited time offer available to qualified retail customers who have applied for the Scotiabank® GM® Visa® Card [GM card] and to current Scotiabank® GM® Visa® Cardholders (taxes included). \$500 manufacturer-to-dealer Finance Cash (tax exclusive) towards the finance of an eligible new 2017 Silverado Double Cab at participating dealers. 2018 Silverado Double Cab Custom Edition Lease: Lease based on a purchase price of \$45,137 for a 2018 Silverado Double Cab Custom Edition, includes \$2,000 CDA, \$1,000 Lease Cash, \$500 Holiday Bonus and \$1,000 GM Card Application Bonus (this offer applies to individuals who have applied for the Scotiabank® GM® Visa® Card [GM card] and to current Scotiabank® GM® Visa® Cardholders) (tax inclusive). Bi-weekly payment is \$199 for 48 months at 2.9% lease rate on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometer. \$3,350 down payment required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is \$23,621. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by dealer and region) are extra. Option to purchase at lease end is \$37,402. (0/60+\$3,000 Total Value Finance Offer) Eligible 2017 Colorado: Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles financed and from between December 1, 2017 to January 2, 2018. Financing provided, on approved credit, by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Representative finance example based on a new 2017 Colorado. Suggested retail price is \$32,760 including \$1,700 freight and PDI, \$100 air conditioning charge (where applicable), \$0 down payment or equivalent trade-in required. \$32,760 financed at 0% nominal rate equals \$546.00 per month for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0 for a total obligation of \$32,760. Taxes, PPSA, license, insurance, registration and applicable fees, levies, duties and, except in Quebec, dealer fees (all of which may vary by region and dealer) are extra. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time financing offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GM Canada may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. *Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. \$3,000 Total Value. Limited time offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada. \$3,000 Total Value is a combined total credit for finance purchases on select 2017 Colorados; includes: \$750 manufacturer to dealer cash credit (tax exclusive), \$500 manufacturer-to-dealer Holiday Bonus (tax exclusive), \$750 GM card application bonus (this offer applies to individuals who have applied for the Scotiabank® GM® Visa® Card [GM card] and to current Scotiabank® GM® Visa® Cardholders) (taxes included). \$1,000 manufacturer-to-dealer Finance Cash (tax exclusive) towards the finance of an eligible new 2017 Colorados at participating dealers. 1 Vehicle user interface is a product of Apple and its terms and privacy statements apply. Requires compatible iPhone and data plan rates apply. 2 Vehicle user interface is a product of Google and its terms and privacy statements apply. Requires compatible smartphone and data plan rates apply. 3 Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and capabilities vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. Terms and conditions apply. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Not all vehicles may transmit all crash data. After the trial period, an active OnStar service plan is required. OnStar 4G LTE: Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. Requires active OnStar service and data plan. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. Accessory Power must be active to use the Wi-Fi hotspot. 4 U.S. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). 7 Requires available 3.6L V6 engine. 8 Based on WardsAuto.com 2016 Small Pickup segment and latest competitive information available at time of printing. Excludes other GM models. 9 Requires available 3.6L V6 or 2.8L Duramax Turbo-Diesel engine. 10 Before you buy a vehicle or use it for trailering, carefully review the Trailering section of the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 48,000 km, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM dealers. Fluid top offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Company reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ▲Whichever comes first. See dealer for details. 1 Vehicle user interface is a product of Apple and its terms and privacy statements apply. Requires compatible iPhone and data plan rates apply. 2 Vehicle user interface is a product of Google and its terms and privacy statements apply. Requires compatible smartphone and data plan rates apply. 3 Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and capabilities vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. Terms and conditions apply. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. Not all vehicles may transmit all crash data. After the trial period, an active OnStar service plan is required. OnStar 4G LTE: Services and connectivity vary by model and conditions as well as geographical and technical restrictions. Requires active OnStar service and data plan. Data plans provided by AT&T or its local service provider. 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Author releases The Best Present Ever

NATE SMELLE

County Life Staff

Just in time for Christmas, local author Irene Davidson-Fisher has released her latest book entitled, *The Best Present Ever*.

The book tells the story of a young girl named Elizabeth who becomes confused about all the Santas she sees.

She begins asking herself questions such as: Why are there so many Santas? Is Santa real? Where does he live? Why does Elsa call Santa Claus, Kriss Kringle?

Drawing her own conclusions from a story her grandma tells her, Elizabeth learns that Christmas is more about giving than receiving. Davidson-Fisher said she decided to write the book to expand the meaning of Christmas in the hearts and homes of children between the ages of seven- and 10-years-old, and their parents.

Before coming up with the idea to write the book, she said she would tell her children and grandchildren a similar story when they asked questions about the existence of Santa Claus.

Davidson-Fisher first began writing the story in 2012, and has continued working on it off and on over the past five years.

She said the book was ready to go to the publisher last

year, however she missed the Christmas marketing season while adding a number of changes she wanted to make to the story.

"For the past year I have been tweaking it and bringing it to life," said Davidson-Fisher.

"I must admit, I was concerned I wouldn't get it for this Christmas, but fortunately, I received it just in the nick of time."

Adding another dimension to the Christmas story are the illustrations by Andrea Por, which help bring the author's characters to life.

Por was also the illustrator for Davidson-Fisher's first children's book, *Robbie Raccoon and the Big Black Blob*.

Davidson-Fisher said her illustrations add a visual interpretation as well as a depth of emotion to the story.

"Rather than describing characters in a children's book, it is much better to have illustrations to engage their imagination and provide them with both a visual and oral experience," she said.

When Por finished the illustrations for *The Best Present Ever* in 2016 and began working on another project, Davidson-Fisher asked her husband, Stan Fisher to step in and assist with a few changes requested by the publisher.

He was then able to electronically manipulate the images and make the necessary alterations.

"I am very fortunate that my husband Stan, is in my



Irene Davidson-Fisher holds a copy of her newest children's book, *The Best Present Ever*. She will be signing copies at Wintergreen Dec. 10, 16 and 17. / Photo submitted

mind, a computer genius," she said.

If there is one lesson Davidson-Fisher hopes her readers will take away from the story, she said it would be to understand that Santa Claus is real because he lives in each of us.

"I hope my book will help children to understand that generosity comes from within and that it is a special gift to be treasured and when given to others, it is *The Best Present Ever*," Davidson-Fisher said.

Davidson-Fisher will be signing copies of her latest book at Wintergreen Maple Syrup and Pancake Barn in Minden on Sunday, Dec. 10, Saturday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 17.

Now that she has wrapped up *The Best Present Ever*, the author has already started working on her third children's book, *Treasures From The Deep*. Davidson-Fisher's books are currently available for purchase online at: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Indigo and other e-stores worldwide.

I hope my book will help children to understand that generosity comes from within.

— Irene Davidson-Fisher

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P.O. Box 870,
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Kim.robinson@hhft.com

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Minden Subaru kicks off the 2017 SIRCH Gifts from the Heart Campaign with a \$1,000.00 donation. Pictured left to right – Diane McKnight Sirch food Initiatives coordinator, Wanda Albert Minden Subaru Financial Services Manager, Tran LaRue Owner Minden Subaru, Wendy Iles Sirch Fundraising Coordinator, Gena Robertson Sirch Executive Director.

89% of Canadians 'agree' that Christmas is becoming too commercial.

88% 'agree' we need to spend more time at Christmas focusing on those who need help. And a recent Ipsos Reid poll found a staggering

74% of Canadians agree that a charitable donation made in their name instead of receiving a traditional gift makes them feel good.



"With a family of 5, and with only one parent able to work, we struggle to pay our bills and put food on the table. SIRCH has helped my family put healthy meals on my table when I have had nothing else. We couldn't have gotten by without the help from SIRCH."

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The Times
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CountyLife

Gifts from the Heart
offer you a way to give a
meaningful gift at Christmas
that will impact our own
Haliburton County community.

In the past year, **SIRCH**
has provided over **5,100** free
nutritious meals to those
in need, all funded through
Gifts from the Heart
and other donations!
Now that's a Christmas gift
~ free, nutritious, home cooked
meals to those in need.



"I love being a volunteer with SIRCH Community Kitchen. We have such a great time making meals – we laugh so much. But we also know the impact that these meals are having in our community and feel so thankful to be able to contribute to such a worthy cause. Everyone at SIRCH really does care."

"As a low income senior I rarely have enough money to pay for the food to get me through the month. I also have physical limitations that make preparing meals hard and sometimes nearly impossible. At times, my fridge and freezer are empty. SIRCH meals are always healthy, made with real meat and vegetables. It's safe to say that I might not be here without them."



705-457-1742 www.sirch.on.ca
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We would like to thank all of our sponsors:





"We were given SIRCH meals on a day that we literally had nothing in the fridge and the food banks weren't open. I cried out of sheer relief.

And it meant so much to know they were made by community volunteers who understand and care."



When you purchase a Gift from the Heart, you will make a difference right here in Haliburton County. Your gift will help support SIRCH's Community Kitchen which in the past year has provided over 5,100 free meals to those in need, as well as education, training and other supports. You and the recipient of your gift will help provide nutritious meals for those most in need due to illness, poverty or critical circumstance. It is a gift that truly matters, a gift that brings with it hope and change.

"When you think about the things we take for granted, like buying what we feel like eating for dinner or always having milk in our fridge, we forget that this is not the reality for many in our community.

I am so humbled and honoured to volunteer in the SIRCH Community Kitchen. Making healthy meals for people who otherwise would go hungry is a joy and a privilege."



I am pleased to give to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart Campaign!

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____ Cheque enclosed _____

Visa / Mastercard : Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

I wish to make a monthly donation on my credit card. Amount: _____

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

****Please note that we now have PayPal! To access, please visit our website and click the "Donate Now" button.**

I will commit to the same amount next year (Nov 2018) ____ Please remind me by email in Oct 2018 ____ Email address: _____

I would like to be recognized on the SIRCH website as a supporter ____ I would like to receive a gift card to send ____

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DOWNTOWN
HALIBURTON

New map app shows cultural points of interest

CHAD INGRAM

County Life Staff

A new map application shows the geographic location of and provides information on public art and cul-

tural points of interest throughout the Municipality of Dysart et al.

Jim Blake, a member of the municipality's cultural resources committee, and Dysart planning staff gave councillors an overview of the mapping application during a Nov. 20 council meeting.

Completed as part of the municipality's cultural plan, the project drew on a previously completed inventory of cultural assets, with the map app created by students at the Lindsay Fleming College campus's GIS program.

As Blake explained, students from the program look for projects to complete each year.

The app divides Dysart cultural assets into four categories; buildings and spaces, historic objects, plaques and public art.

Clicking on any of the four tabs leads users to a map containing coloured circles, each of the circles representing a location. Clicking on a circle gives the user information about the cultural asset at that location.

Buildings and spaces include locations such as Abbey Gardens, the Rails End Gallery and the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Historic objects include the plane and locomotive out-

side the high school, the Sherman tank near the Legion, and the pulley wheel monument in Head Lake Park.

"This is a pulley wheel for the drive belt used to power sawmill machinery, found during excavation for Head Lake Park site," the application reads. "It was placed beside the bridge in Head Lake Park in memory of the late Mr. Clayton W. and Mrs. Phyllis Hodgson, who donated land."

There are numerous historic plaques throughout Haliburton Village, such as those at Lucas House and the Emmerson dam, and the public art section shows sculptures and paintings throughout the community.

The application is currently housed on the Dysart et al website under the "services" tab, and then under "municipal cultural mapping."

Eventually, the plan is for it and similar applications to be housed on a mapping and GIS system.

DOWNTOWN HALIBURTON'S

MEN'S SHOPPING NIGHT

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Guys, this is a Shopping Night Just for You!

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- Specials at the Restaurants!
- Enjoy the Songs of the Strolling Carolers

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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Winter Guide

2018

Distributed at local "hot spots" and through our County Life newspaper, Winter Guide is an annual favourite that won't let you down.

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Elizabeth Thompson*
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Minden Home \$474,900

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- Full finished Walk-Out Basement, 12 Acres
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Melanie Vigrass*
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- Total privacy, stunning views
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SOLD

Lindsay Elder**
457-5878



Sir Sams Chalet \$599,000

- B&B or Residential: 8 bdrms, 3 bathrooms
- Excellent investment on Sir Sam's ski hill,

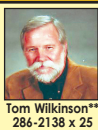
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- 10 Minutes from Haliburton

Jennifer Bacon*
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x28**Mitchell Lake \$419,500**

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- Plus access The Trent Severn Waterway

Drew Bishop**
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- Large acreages starting at \$99,900

Dagmar Boelcher**
457-5968**Irondale River \$299,999**

- 3 bedroom large home set on 2 acres
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Janice Brookes*
457-2128 x 22**105 Acres/Viceroy \$469,000**

- Full-Walkout Basement with amazing views!
- Man's dream 30x40 Workshop, oversized garage!
- Quality construction with SW exposure! Must see!

Kim Buff*
286-2138 x31**Minden Lot \$43,800**

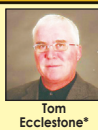
- Vacant residential building lot in the town
- Located on the corner of Prince & Booth St
- Mostly cleared & level property, ideal for building

Gloria Camacho*
754-1932**Opportunity Bldg Lot \$69,500**

- 4.98 Ac, 526' Fr On Hwy 118, Nw E
- Beautifully Treed, Drive, School Bus
- 15 Mins to Haliburton, 20 To Minden

Mark Denny*
457-0473**Downtown Haliburton \$249,000**

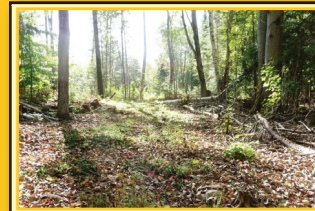
- Approx. 1325 Sq Ft, 3 Levels
- Excellent Main Street Exposure
- Investment or Office/Retail Space

Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 26**1st Time Offered on Gull Lk \$939,000**

- Immaculate Confederation Log Home
- Year Round Access, spectacular views
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Lindsay Elder**
457-5878**Brady Lake \$379,000**

- 4 season enjoyment, 3 bedroom cottage
- Insulated bunkie and detached garage
- Level lot w/beautiful views over 127 ft fr

Lee Gauthier**
489-9968**Tulip Rd \$27,000**

- Well treed 'high & dry' 2.2 acre building lot
- Site partially cleared, roughed in driveway
- Cell service, only 2 km from Hwy 118/Carnarvon

Scott Harrison*
286-2138 x 28**Hunters Creek Rd \$49,900**

- Great building site minutes to Minden.
- Municipal access to Gull River at end of road
- 6.5 acres, utilities at lot line

Andrew Hodgson***
286-2138 x 29**Kashagawigamog Lake \$189,000**

- Great opportunity to build your home/cottage
- 3 separate lots that are being sold together
- Waterfront is across the road, 5 Lk chain access

Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33**Miskwabi Lake \$499,900**

- Prime level lot, western exposure, big lake view
- 3BR cottage with heated line, lots of upgrades
- 123' frontage, clean shoreline, year round access

Rosemarie Jung*
457-7049**New Minden Home!! \$359,900**

- Bright & Spacious 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath Bungalow
- In town w/ Quality Finishes, High Efficiency
- Booking Model Home Showings NOW!

David Lee*
286-2138 x 27**Fort Irwin Diner \$249,000**

- Turnkey diner style restaurant or diner
- Large list of inclusions to run your business
- Very clean building with recent updates!

Erin Nicholls*
457-2128 x 34**Haliburton Home \$299,000**

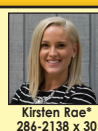
- Classic 4 bdrm home right in Haliburton Village
- Amazing view over Head Lake + shop & garage
- Sits on a 1.3 acre lot with nice backyard

Brandon Nimigon
457-2128 x 27**West Lake Lots from \$239,900**

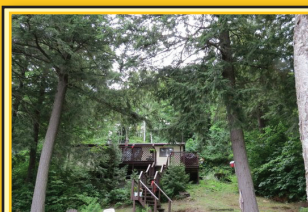
- 3 beautiful waterfront lots to choose from
- Access via township road, terrific building sites
- Suitable for home or cottage location

Karen Nimigon**
457-2128 x 29**Lake Lorraine \$114,000**

- 1+ acre lot with 30' lakefront on a pretty lake
- Great building lot awaiting your imagination
- Own waterfront at an affordable price

Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30**Kennis River \$109,900**

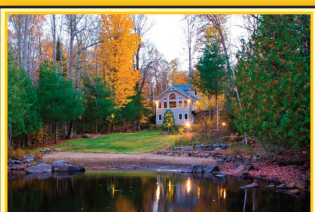
- Lovely building lot, short boat ride into Halls Lake
- Natural shoreline with picturesque river views!

Darlene Reil*
447-2055**Harcourt Park \$224,900**

- 3 bedroom open concept cottage
- Excellent shoreline on lovely Allen Lake
- Newer dock, nice sized enclosed deck

Christine Sharp*
286-2138 x59**Overlooking Beech Lake \$297,500**

- Perfect size year round cottage or home
- 2 bedroom + 2 story bunkie & lots of updates
- 100' of sandy beach & dock across the road

Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28**Soyers Lake Estate \$1,690,000**

- Point lot, nice beach area w/600 ft fr & 1.47 acres
- Yr-round, 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, att'd dbl car garage
- Open concept, lrg principle rooms, 2 stone FPS



Haliburton (705) 457-2128

Minden (705) 286-2138

Carnarvon (705) 489-9968

Kennis/Redstone (705) 754-1932

Wilberforce (705) 448-2311



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WHAT'S ON stage THIS SUMMER

Romeo & Juliet

Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare

In Verona violence rules, where two families bear an ancient grudge. In this world where greed, wealth and bitter feuds prevail, two children dare to choose love. The Prince decrees: if Montague or Capulet again disrupts the peace, death is the punishment. Underscored by ingenious wit and astonishing beauty, Romeo and Juliet is the greatest love story ever told.

Performances July 2-5 (7:30 p.m.), 6 & 8 (2 p.m. matinee), 9 & 10 (7:30 p.m.).

The Dining Room

by A.R. Gurney



The play is set in a fine dining room, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action is a mosaic of interrelated scenes—some touching, some revealing, some hilarious—which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of the rewards and trials of family life. The actors change roles, personalities and ages with virtuoso skill as they portray a wide variety of characters, from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

Performances July 30 - Aug 2 (7:30 p.m.), 3 & 5 (2 p.m. matinee), Aug 7 & 8 (7:30 p.m.).



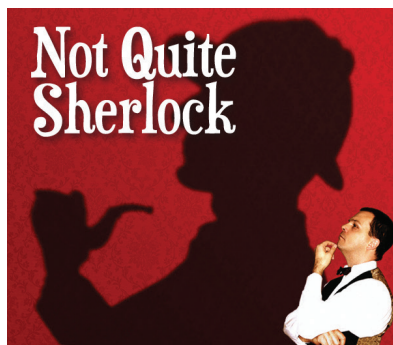
Cliffhanger

by James Yaffe

Mingling suspense and humour, this ingeniously plotted thriller follows all the unexpected twists and turns that result when a seemingly mild-mannered professor of philosophy is driven to apparent murder to protect his reputation and career.

Performances July 16-19 (7:30 p.m.), 20 & 22 (2 p.m. matinee), 23 & 24 (7:30 p.m.).

Not Quite Sherlock



Not Quite Sherlock

Created by and starring Chris Gibbs

Not Quite Sherlock is a one-man comedy about Victorian London's most overlooked detective. It's also a ridiculous comedy about an ex-street-performing comedian attempting to do a one-man comedy about Victorian London's most overlooked detective. With wit, charm, timing, and almost no respect for the rules of theatre, Chris Gibbs creates a simple, hilarious theatrical experience unlike any other.

Performances July 11 & 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (2 p.m. matinee).

NEW for 2018

Evening
Performances
start at 7:30 p.m.
Matinees at 2 p.m.

From Weimar to Vaudeville

by Tom Allen

The story of two men, both sons of musical royalty. As America emerges from the Great Depression and Germany descends into darkness and chaos, two musical princes, one rich, one poor, reach out to each other across hardship and time as the world tilts again toward war. Featuring music by Richard Strauss, Charlie Chaplin, Fletcher Henderson, Paul Hindemith, and Johannes Brahms, along with stunning original songs by the cast, Weimar to Vaudeville is Tom Allen's vivid imagining of the 20s and 30s: dirty as ever and roaring loudly enough to be heard half-way around the world.

Performances July 25 & 26 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m. matinee).



Toll Free 855.457.9933

705.457.9933

HighlandsSummerFestival.on.ca

Chamber prepares for annual achievement awards gala

NATE SMELLE
County Life Staff

On Saturday, March 17, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its annual Business and Community Achievement Awards ceremony at the Pinestone Resort in Haliburton.

As the only annual achievement awards handed out in the Haliburton Highlands, manager of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Autumn Wilson says the awards gala is a special opportunity for people to come together and celebrate excellence in the community.

“The goal of the awards is to shine the light on the businesses, organizations and individuals that are making our community thrive,” says Wilson.

“Not only the award recipients, but the nominees as well are people that contribute to the economic vitality of the Haliburton Highlands.”

This year the chamber will be adding a new award to the ceremony which celebrate the accomplishments of a young professional in the community.

Wilson says the Young Professional of the Year award was created because they wanted to communicate how important young people are to the community in respect to sustainability and growth. This award recognizes an employee or business owner who is 35 years of age or younger who exhibits great potential for leadership and/or innovation. According to Wilson, the winner must “live, work, and play” in the Haliburton Highlands and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

“They are also someone who is an ambassador for young people in the community,” she says.

“The chamber believes it is important for this age group to know they are valuable contributors to our community and we need them here in order for the Haliburton Highlands to grow and thrive.”

Wilson says anyone in the community can participate in selecting the winners, because people do not need to be a member of the chamber to nominate someone, nor does the business or organization need to be a member in order to be nominated. Nomination forms can be downloaded online at the chamber website, and can

be submitted by email, fax, or mail. There are also hard copies of the forms available from the chamber of commerce, as well as at various businesses throughout the Haliburton Highlands. Nomination forms are also available at each of the branches of the Haliburton County Public Library in Dorset, Wilberforce, Haliburton and Minden. The deadline to submit nominations is Feb. 15, 2018, however, Wilson encourages people to submit their nominations as soon as possible.

“Every year we have people say they wanted to nominate someone but forgot,” she says.

“We always tell people to nominate people as soon as they can, so they can put the right information on the nomination form that will make sure the nominee moves forward to the last stage of judging.”

The cost to attend the awards gala is \$75 per person and tickets go on sale in February. Wilson says ticket sales will be announced on air on Moose FM, and through the chamber’s eBlasts, which people can subscribe to on the chamber’s website. For more information on the Business and Community Achievement Awards, or for assistance filling out the nomination form contact the chamber at 705-457-4700; or by visiting the chamber online at www.haliburtonchamber.com.



Last year’s winners gather following the gala at Pinestone Resort./Photo submitted



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UPCOMING Community Events



Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free!
Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

Upcoming Events

Kinmount, Let it Glow, Christmas Tree Lighting

When: Thursday Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Kinmount Train Station

Carolling, bonfire & treats. Free photo with Santa

St. Paul's Anglican Church Children's Christmas Gift Sale

When: Friday, Dec. 8, 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 9 - 10 a.m. to 2: p.m.

Where: 19 Invergordon Ave, Minden

Nothing costs more than \$1.00 - Children come and shop for Christmas Gifts for family & friends - We will help the children shop, wrap and tag the gifts, they will be ready to take home and put under the tree. - Please come and share in the joy of this day. Everyone Welcome - For more info. Please call the Church office at 705-286-2541

Kinmount: Christmas in the Village

When: Saturday, Dec. 9

Pancake Breakfast with Santa, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Anglican Church Hall

Children's Crafts, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Community Centre Upstairs

Royal Canadian Legion Christmas Party for the children, 2 p.m.

Christmas Music Night, 7 p.m., Galway Hall. Featuring Frank and Chanda Leahy and family. Desserts, Loonie Auction

For more information or to reserve tickets (\$15) for Music Night, contact 488-2635 or 488-2687

Visit kinmount.ca for more information.

Fill A Cruiser

When: Saturday, Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Wilberforce Foodland

All donations received will support the Wilberforce and Cardiff Food Banks. Please come out and support our local Food Banks, our community and our OPP!

The Highlands Trio in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 4 to 7 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom

Cost: \$5.00 cover charge for non-members

50/50 draw at 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious meal for \$6.00 by the Ladies Auxiliary

Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade

When: Sunday, Dec. 10 at 12:30 p.m.

Where: Wilberforce

It begins at the Wilberforce School at 12:30 p.m., and parades to the Lloyd Watson Community Centre, where Santa will join the kids for a free picture, gift and goodies. Fun for all ages, don't miss it!

Highlands Wind Symphony, 2017 Christmas Concert

When: Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.

Where Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

Tickets: \$10.00 or \$25.00/family

Tickets at Masters Bookstore, Haliburton or Minden Pharmasave Call or text 705-457-7894 for more info

Haliburton Pastoral Charge, White Gift Sunday

When: Sunday, Dec. 10, 11:15 a.m.

Where: Haliburton United Church

Environment Haliburton

When: Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Enviro-Cafe Minden Cultural Centre

Jim and Joan Joseph will talk about their passive house

currently under construction and how Passive house construction can dramatically lower heating and cooling costs.

Call Terry Moore for more information at 705-306-9254 or

tmooore7031@gmail.com

Lochlin United Church annual community "Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing-a-long"

When: Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Where: 1050 Lochlin Road off Gelert Road (County Rd. 1) at Lochlin.

Accompanied by Rev. Harry Morgan and friends

Refreshments following: hot cider and christmas goodies.

Donations to the food banks gratefully accepted

Essonville Historic Church Christmas Carol Service

When: Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

All are welcome

Speaker: Pastor Brian Plouffe

Legion Events

Branch 624, Wilberforce

Friday Spaghetti dinner 5 - 7 p.m.

Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. - Early bird 3 p.m. sharp

Monday Bid Euchre 7:00p.m. Beginners welcome

Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30p.m.

We are in dire need of volunteers for many different things we have going on. If anyone is interested in helping our beautiful legion please call the legion 705-448- 2221 and sign up today Travelling this winter? Get your travel insurance through your membership.

Legion is closed Dec. 25. Merry Christmas. Dec. 26, Boxing Day

Dec. 31 New Years Eve Dance, DJ Mike 9 p.m. - close

Jan. 1 New Years Day, President's Levee 1:30 p.m.

Jan. 27 Crib tournament in Trenton 29/\$50 - 28/\$25 - 24/\$10

Branch 129, Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1p.m.

Tuesdays: Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7p.m.

Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start

Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at

7 p.m. - \$500 Jackpot, \$1000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month

starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.

Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays:

Cribbage 1 p.m. start,
Meat Draw Five Draws, Five
Prizes each draw, First draw at
4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$2 per draw.

Chester Howse, MC

Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards

Saturdays:

50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw, Tickets are \$1 each
from noon onwards

Sundays:

Breakfast Second and fourth Sunday of the
month - 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$6 per person.

Occasional volunteers are needed.

Live entertainment featuring The Highlands Trio **Saturday Dec. 9**
4-7 p.m. in the Club Room.

Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$6 prepared by the Ladies
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Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more
information call the Legion today at (705) 457- 2571, email
rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on
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Cheryl Murdock named chairman of local board

Cheryl Murdock, a trustee from Anson, Hindon and Minden, has been elected chairman of the Haliburton County Board of Education. She replaces Ross Anderson of Tory Hill, who held the position in 1981.

A former public school teacher, Murdock taught for eight years in Peterborough, Peel and Haliburton County schools. She was first elected to the board in 1978. Since then she has served on a number of board committees, including the key salary negotiating committee which she has chaired for the last two years.

She was elected vice chairman of the board last December.

Murdock has a deep rooted interest in education in the county, with one child enrolled at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, a second at Archie Stouffer Public School, and a third not yet of school age.

The new chairman sees the implementation of Bill 82 requirements as the board's biggest challenge in the coming year. The bill requires all school boards to have effective special education programs for gifted as well as learning disabled youngsters by 1985. The local board has established several committees to facilitate the implementation of the Bill's regulations in the county, and will begin phasing in new special education programs in the 1982-83 school year.

Murdock said in an interview Thursday that she is committed to helping the board provide the best quality education for county students while at the same time keeping costs in line with those in other areas of the province.

Derrill Stamp, trustee for Dysart et al, was elected vice chairman for 1982. Stamp is also a three year veteran of the board, having been first elected in 1978.

The appointments came at a meeting of the board Monday afternoon following an all day budget session.

Committees for 1982 are expected to be set before the end of this week.



There's nothing quite like a ride on a horse drawn wagon to add to the fun of the Christmas season. These youngsters got the ride Saturday afternoon when the

Glamorgan volunteer firemen put on a Christmas party for the children of the community.

COTA says grant inadequate Ministry has not increased support to travel associations

Grants from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism to the Central Ontario Travel Association for 1982 will remain at the 1975 level, and the move has COTA's executive up in arms.

The association said in a news release this week that the ministry has "steadfastly refused to increase grants to COTA and to the 11 other associations (in Ontario) for either administrative or promotional purposes, claiming that more financial support should be coming from private and municipal sectors."

Bill Smith of Harcourt, COTA's president, said the ministry's decision is "pretty hard to take."

Smith said in the release that the ministry has had "regular increases in its budget since 1975, yet has refused to transfer any of the increases to the travel associations."

"How can this association possibly develop more sophisticated marketing programs with 1975 dollars and 1981 prices?" Smith noted.

He said the association intends to enter into more cooperative promotion programs with the private sector next year, but added that most travel operators are also feeling the effects of higher prices and higher interest rates.

Smith said the ministry's

Yours to Discover campaign is working, but that travel associations "base their programs on the grass roots of the industry. This is where it all starts and where the most help is needed" according to Smith.

"It just doesn't make sense to continuously promote the province as a whole at the expense of facilities and attractions at the local level!" Smith said. "They are the ones who generate the revenues and pay the taxes."

All associations receive \$35,000 for administration, \$50,000 for promotion and a grant to cover salaries for summer student travel coun-

sellors. In 1975, COTA's total budget was \$120,000. Co-operative programs with the private sectors and municipalities increased the budget by \$50,000 in 1981 to \$170,000, according to the release.

The 12 travel associations are expected to voice their concerns at a meeting in Toronto later this month when a new funding formula and new initiatives for the Ontario Travel Association Program will be announced.

COTA president Bill Smith and executive director Aldo Campagnolo are expected to attend the meeting.

Fire damages cottage

Local brigade mans pumps, douses flames

Quick action by volunteer firemen from Everett's marina at Kennis Lake saved a cottage from being destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon. The cottage, located on the north side of the lake, was heavily damaged however.

The blaze was discovered by a passing motorist, who noticed that a large part of the roof was bare of snow and drove up the driveway to investigate. Observing that the windows were blackened with smoke, he contacted Dysart firemen and the brigade at Everett's marina.

Portable pumps kept at the marina were brought to the scene and started before the door of the cottage was opened to get at the blaze, a tactic which helped keep the fire in check.

A section of floor in the single storey wood frame cottage had burned through,

but no other significant structural damage was evident.

Firemen poured water on the floor area and wet down the wooden walls to ensure that fire had not spread undetected into the shell of the structure.

No one was in the cottage at the time of the blaze. Renovations to the structure were being carried out by an area contractor, who said at the scene that he had not been at the site for two days at the time of the blaze. The fire appeared to have started in a chesterfield in the centre of the living room. The cottage was owned by Ken Hume.

The blaze was under control by the time Dysart firemen arrived at the scene, 21 road miles from the fire station. They assisted in the mopping up operation.

Echo will not publish December 30 issue

In order that our employees may enjoy a brief holiday at Christmas, the Haliburton County Echo will not publish between Christmas and New Years. Our office will be closed from Thursday, December 24 through Wednesday, December 30.

The issue of December 23, will, as usual, contain a special Christmas greeting section with messages from businesses and individuals throughout Haliburton County.

Publication will resume Wednesday, January 6, and our normal deadlines for display and classified advertising, (5 p.m. Monday of the week of publication) will apply for that issue.

Dysart seeks aid Assessment appeals cut revenue, council asks for an explanation

Dysart et al may get financial assistance from the province to offset revenue lost because of assessment review court decisions. Regional assessment commissioner Ivor James told council Monday that he is preparing a report on Dysart's situation, and that he expects some form of aid will be forthcoming once the facts have been presented at Queen's Park.

James attended the meeting to answer council's questions about the consequences of opting for equalized assessment under Section 86 of The Assessment Act. The system, adopted by most municipalities throughout the province, does not change overall assessment, but adjusts assessments within property classes to eliminate inequities.

In presentations prior to the change, council was told that assessment appeals could reduce anticipated revenue in 1981 by one or one and a half per cent. In practice however, appeals upheld by the assessment review court have reduced the municipalities' revenues by almost four per cent. The biggest single factor in Dysart's current plight has been the court's decision to uphold an appeal from Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve.

The court ordered the municipality to refund \$34,347.46 to the company, which owns several thousand acres of recreational land in Havelock Township.

As a result of the company's appeal, and appeals from a number of other individuals, the municipality will be short approximately \$40,000 on projected 1981 revenue, reeve Murray Fearrey told James.

"That may not sound like a lot to you people," Fearrey said, "but it's a lot to a small municipality."

If other large landowners decided to press appeals, and if the assessment review court upheld them, the municipality could lose a further \$50,000 in tax revenue, the reeve estimated.

"I think that's quite a substantial blow to be dealt in one year," Fearrey said. He noted that if the pattern was going to be repeated in future years, "it's high time the ministry (of revenue) gave us some assistance."

James defended the estimates of a one to 1.5 per cent loss in revenue that had been given to council when equalized assessment under Section 86 was first considered.

"That still holds in just about every other municipality," he said. But, he added, "nobody dreamed of acreage the size of Haliburton Forest and Wildlife, and what

the review court would do."

The assessment branch has appealed the review court decision with the Ontario Municipal Board, James said.

"We'll do our best to bring it back in whole, or as much as we can get," he said.

Council's main concern is that a similar situation could arise next year, making it difficult for the municipality to set a mill rate that will give it the revenue it needs to carry out its annual budget.

James noted that council will have to take the decisions of the assessment review court into consideration when it sets a budget and mill rates for 1982.

But council was not satisfied, and continued to press for an explanation of why such a large discrepancy had

Cont'd. page 2

Rail appeal rejected

'No new evidence' CTC tells Lindsay

An appeal from the Town of Lindsay for a new hearing into the closure of the Lindsay-Haliburton rail line has been rejected by the Canada Transport Commission because there is "no new evidence" to suggest the line should be kept open.

The appeal was launched in a last ditch effort to stop the line from being torn up.

Dysart et al reeve Murray Fearrey, who told his council of the latest CTC decision at a meeting Monday, said he could not disagree with the CTC's statement that there is no evidence for keeping the line open other than that which was presented at the original hearing more than a year ago.

He added, however, that the province may still attempt to persuade the CTC that the

line should be left in place rather than torn up and sold for scrap.

If the line is removed, the right-of-way will be offered first to the province, then to the municipalities through which it passes. Council indicated Monday that it will try to acquire title to the portion of the line in Dysart et al.

The Haliburton County Board of Education has already indicated to council that it would like to purchase the portion of the right-of-way adjacent to the playing field at the high school.

While no formal decision on the matter was made at Monday's meeting, council indicated that if it gets title to the entire right-of-way it will probably lease the board the section in question rather than sell it outright.



Dysart et al firemen were called to the scene of a blaze at Kennis Lake last Thursday that damaged a cottage. Here Buck Baker breaks a window to let smoke out of a room and allow a hose to be trained on the interior of the structure.



There were smiles in abundance Saturday afternoon at the Glamorgan Community Centre when Santa paid a brief visit. This youngster was one of dozens who told Santa what they wanted for Christmas.



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